

Message Text

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15
ACTION IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5607
INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 3134

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: PFOR, LY
SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: NAM SUMMIT: QADDAFI'S STARRING ROLE

REF: COLOMBO 3035

1. SUMMARY. LIBYA'S FLAMBOYANT COLONEL QADDAFI TURNED OUT TO BE ONE OF POPULAR HEROES OF NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT. WELL-ORCHESTRATED PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN, INCLUDING DISTRIBUTION OF PHOTOS OF HIMSELF, RAPPORT WITH MOSLEM COMMUNITY, AND HIS FLAMBOYANT NATURE SERVED TO SINGLE HIM OUT AMONGST FORTY-ODD HEADS OF STATE. INCIDENT AT AIRPORT INVOLVING ARMED LIBYAN ADVANCE PARTY (REF) WAS DOWNPLAYED AND DID NOT DETRACT FROM GADAFI AURA. EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEECH TO SUMMIT WAS TYPICAL BOMBAST BUT TURNED PEOPLE ON. END SUMMARY.

2. COLONEL GHADAFI OF LIBYA, WHETHER FLAMBOYANTLY SPURNING AIRPORT RED CARPET OR PEERING FORTH FROM FULL-PAGE ADS IN ALL MAJOR PAPERS, WAS POPULAR HERO OF NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT CONFERENCE. A WELL-FUNDED PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN INCLUDED NOT ONLY NEWSPAPER SUPPLEMENTS BUT PLACEMENT OF PRESS STORIES, PARTICULARLY IN LOCAL MOSLEM WEEKLY, AND DISTRIBUTION OF THOUSANDS OF COLOR PHOTOS, PRINTED ON GLOSSY PHOTOGRAPHIC PAPER OF A TYPE NOT SEEN FOR MANY YEARS IN IMPORT-SHY SRI LANKA.

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3. GATHAFI ALSO PROVIDED COLORFUL COPY FOR NEWSMEN COVERING CONFERENCE WHERE HARD NEWS WAS SOMETIMES DIFFICULT TO FIND. AT PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 18, ASKED ABOUT SADAT'S STATEMENT THAT HE WAS A MADMAN, GADHAFI REPLIED THAT SADAT WAS NOT QUALIFIED PHYSICIAN. AT RECEPTION FOR SRI LANKA MOSLEM COMMUNITY, HE URGED LOCAL MOSLEMS NOT BE DIVIDED AND TO MULTIPLY AND INCREASE YEAR BY YEAR. LIBYA, HE SAID, SUPPORTS ALL MOSLEMS IN THE WORLD "IN PRACTICE, NOT IN TALK".

4. ONE LIBYAN EMBARRASSMENT-MUTED BY QUIET PRESS TREATMENT-WAS INCIDENT AT AIRPORT WHEN SOME OF LIBYAN ADVANCE PARTY WERE TURNED BACK WHEN DISCOVERED TO HAVE NO PASSPORTS BUT SURFEIT OF ARMS (REFTEL).

5. GADDAFI'S SPEECH TO SUMMIT WAS DELIVERED EXTEMPORANEOUSLY, THEREFORE WE DO NOT HAVE AUTHORITATIVE TEXT. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, HE DENOUNCED TROJAN HORSES IN MIDST OF NAM (AND LATER REFUSED TO SPECIFY TO WHOM HE WAS REFERRING) AND ATTACKED VETO POWER IN UN SECURITY COUNCIL. HE SINGLED OUT US FOR CRITICISM OF VETO ON ANGOLA ADMISSION ISSUE. REST OF SPEECH APPEARS TO BE RAMBLING TIRADE.

6. DESPITE QUATHAFI'S SPARKLING SUCCESS LOCALLY, NO ONE HERE HAS YET FIGURED OUT AUTHORITATIVE SPELLING OF HIS NAME.
REED

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